

# ABOUT VISUAL ARTISTS

## Alison Reintjes: DoubleColumn

Through July 27 at the Missoula Art Museum, with a reception and artist talk 5-9 p.m. May 2

Artist website: [www.alisonreintjes.com](http://www.alisonreintjes.com)

In DoubleColumn, Missoula artist Alison Reintjes departed from her familiar ceramic medium, and created a large-scale, hanging, site-specific installation out of powder-coated aluminum.

"For the exhibition, I have limited myself to a vocabulary of three simple polygons – an equilateral triangle, a square and a regular hexagon. These three shapes have angles, which can be combined to add up to 360 degrees, forming a continuous spatial field.

"To experience the joy of the color, the viewer is invited to look through the sculpture instead of at it, seeing the suggested volume created by each shape."

The end result – "two stacks of interlocking globes that shift from subtle whites and creams into vibrant yellows, finally concluding in somber ochre" – exude a dominant presence in the museum.

Reintjes also has a work in the front lobby gallery that is rooted in the same sensibility and aesthetic, but executed in ceramic. In part, it's "a two-dimensional blueprint for the larger three-dimensional work."

Reintjes moved to Montana in 2001 for a residency at the Archie Bray Foundation. She has studied at Kent State University, the Canberra School of Art in Australia, and Northern Michigan University and attended artist residencies in New York, Wyoming, Indiana, and Missoula. Her lengthy exhibition



DoubleColumn by Alison Reintjes  
(Photo by Logan Castor Parson)

record includes shows at the Oregon College of Arts and Crafts in Portland, AKAR Gallery in Iowa City, Museu de Ceramica de l'Alcora in Spain, and Lill Street Art Center in Chicago, among others.

The artist says the intent of her work at MAM "is to envelope the viewer in an experience that gradually unfolds over a large area. Pattern is created and repeated to affect a feeling that is simultaneously stimulating and peaceful."

## Featured Artist: Ed Totten

Through June 18 at Two Rivers Gallery in Big Timber as part of "Savoring Spring Fine Art Show"

Artist website: [www.edtottenfineart.com](http://www.edtottenfineart.com)

Montana native Ed Totten is an internationally known artist who lives in Ennis. His breadth of work spans many decades and different media, including oil painting and intricate carvings. He is also gaining recognition for blending oil painting with wood carving in a single work of art.

Totten is inspired by the beauty, history and lifestyle of the Rocky Mountain West. He grew up hunting and fishing in the rugged Montana backcountry, and those pursuits continue to fuel his art.

Among his accomplishments: the National Wildlife Federation commissioned him to paint two endangered fish species, the Montana Grayling and the Snake River Sockeye salmon; and one of his trout paintings was selected as the Pennsylvania State stamp in 1991.



Red-Tailed Hawk by Ed Totten

of North America."

Beyond his fish paintings, Totten is also known for realistic land and sea scapes, Native American portraits and scenes, and lifelike wildlife carvings, as well as relief storyboards and totem carvings. He created a bronze casting of a carved canvasback duck for the International Wild Waterfowl Association to give as its annual award for the preservation of rare and endangered waterfowl.

An ardent conservationist, Totten views his work as a way to share the awe-inspiring beauty of the natural world, and hopefully inspire others to help protect and preserve it.

## Julie Engler: "Fish On"

June 5-July 2 at Stumptown Art Studio in Whitefish, with a reception 6-9 p.m. June 5

Artist website: [www.mudslingerstudios.com](http://www.mudslingerstudios.com)

Columbia Falls artist Julie Engler covers a wall at Stumptown Art Studio in June with her "Montana pocket fish." According to the artist, the hand-built stoneware trout and salmon each has a "secret pocket on the back, for flowers or for hiding a key." The exhibit also includes her hand-built ceramic "Snow Urchins."

Long before earning her MFA from The University of Montana, Engler's art education began. Her dad was a professional musician and solely responsible for all aspects of his business: setting up stands, booking gigs, hiring musicians, bookkeeping, marketing and playing the piano. Nearly every night, when other fathers were coming home from work, her dad was leaving to "play" at work. Engler, too, has constantly faced the work/play dichotomy.

Her work in clay began in high school where she produced award-winning pieces. In graduate school, she won honorable mention in a show judged by Lela Autio and her work is in The University of Montana's permanent collection.

She won two design competitions and a Best of Show Award for a handmade book with collographs and poetry. But Engler says one of her most valued prizes, the Gold Star Award, was bestowed by Kalispell students when she taught English there.

These days, she works at Mudslinger Studios in Columbia Falls, where she creates her pocket fish, and voluminous pots of very thin coils, reminiscent of a cave swift's nest, a mud-dauber's work or the layers of sediment on a riverbed.

Currently, her work is shown at Hunter and Company Interior Design in Whitefish, Beckman's in Kalispell, and shops in Augusta, Bigfork and Chinook, as well as summer farmers' markets in Whitefish and West Glacier.



Blue Trout by Julie Engler

National Trout Unlimited named him Artist of the Year three times in the 1990s and he was selected by the Bradford Exchange as featured artist for an eight-piece, limited-edition collector plate series in 1994, titled "Fresh Water Game Fish



# 19

## Send your submissions for About Visual Arts

With About Visual Arts, *State of the Arts* continues to profile living Montana artists (no students, please), whose work is the focus of a current exhibit (on display during some portion of the two months covered by the current issue of *State of the Arts*).

Submissions must include:

- A digital image of the artist's work, with title of the piece (at least 200 dpi);
- A brief bio and description of the artist's work;
- Dates and title of exhibit; and
- The gallery or museum name, town and phone number.

MAC will select submissions that reflect a cross-section of gender, geography, styles and ethnicity, and are from a mix of public and private galleries and museums.

Deadline for submissions for the July/August issue is June 2. Please send submissions to [writ-eus@livelytimes.com](mailto:writ-eus@livelytimes.com) with About Visual Arts in the subject line.

# Deadline nears for participation in MAP program

Artists across Montana continue to benefit from the Montana Arts Council's Montana Artrepreneur Program (MAP), which has extended its stretch to nearly 300 artists from western Montana across the mountains and east to Miles City. Although 11 MAP groups have already begun their workshops, applications are currently being accepted for either eastern or western Cascade County, with a deadline of May 1, and the Hi-Line cohort, with a deadline of May 7.

The MAP workshops offer an opportunity for visual artists working in any medium to learn about building a sustainable business in art. Interested artists are encouraged to fill out an application (available online at [www.art.mt.gov](http://www.art.mt.gov)) to be considered for inclusion in the MAP program.

Currently in its fifth year, MAP has accrued an ever-increasing list of successes. Each year, groups of artists across Montana form to study the business of art under the leadership of a certified MAP coach. In 2014, artists in 14 groups across the state will develop their business skills while strengthening their networks.



A study of MAP artists from its first two years found that most individuals grew their business by at least 150 percent.

MAP is specifically for visual artists, which includes individuals working in all media, from oil paintings to glass, from leather to textiles and fibers, and from metal to photography. Artists need to demonstrate their ongoing commitment to creating in their media and have some computer skills. The size of each group is kept small to insure that artists receive the full benefits of this learning opportunity.

Participants in a MAP cohort commit to 8-10 months of instruction and workshops that help them create 35 tools for their business toolbox and then move forward to Market-Ready Certification. These tools include, for

example, creating marketing materials, setting pricing, developing displays for shows, and building a business plan. There are also mentorship and internship opportunities.

In addition to the instruction, MAP participants have participated in market-expansion opportunities like the 2013 Artist Gathering in Hamilton, the 2013 Tour of Excellence, which took artists to the Western Design Conference in Jackson, WY, and the 2014 Made in Montana Show in Helena.

The Eastern Cascade County MAP group is led by MAP Coach Linda Short of Great Falls, 406-453-4334 or [lindajshort@gmail.com](mailto:lindajshort@gmail.com); and the Western Cascade County MAP group is led by MAP Coach Pam Houston of Ulm, 406-868-5810 or [houstonfineart@gmail.com](mailto:houstonfineart@gmail.com). Marlena McAlpine of Sunburst, 406-937-5400 or [northcountryphoto@yahoo.com](mailto:northcountryphoto@yahoo.com), leads the Hi-Line group.

For more information, interested artists should call or email Cindy Kittredge, MAC Folk Arts and Market Development Specialist, 406-468-4078 or [ckittredge@mt.gov](mailto:ckittredge@mt.gov).